

REMARKS

In response to Applicants' appeal, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("Board") affirmed the rejection of claims 17 under § 112; claims 34-37 and 51 under § 103(a); claims 39-40 and 53 under § 103(a); claims 41-42 under § 102(b); and claim 54 under § 103(a). No decision was reached for the rejection of claims 39 and 40 under § 102(b). There is two-month time period from the date of the Board's decision to reopen prosecution by submitting an amendment of the claims in a response pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 41.50(b). By this response, Applicants amend claims 17, 34, and 37, and cancel claims 39-42, 52-54, and 56. Applicants contend that the claims now pending in the Application are patentable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103, 112.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 17 has been amended to recite "a fourth device." Claim 17, as amended provides proper antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 39-42 are canceled, making the rejection of claims 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) moot.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 56 was indicated by the examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. (p. 8, Office Action dated April 27, 2007). Claim 34 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 56. Claim 56 is canceled. Independent claim 34 is patentable over the cited art. Claims 35-36 and 51 depend from claim 34 and as such, are patentable.

Claim 52 was indicated by the examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. (p. 8, Office Action dated April 27, 2007). Claim 37 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 52. Claim 52 is canceled. Independent claim 37 is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 39-40 are canceled, making the rejection of claims 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) moot.

Accordingly, claims 34-37 and 51 are patentable in view of 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-16, 18-19, 23, 25, 27-33, 43, 46-47, 49-50, and 57 were indicated by the examiner as allowed. (p. 7, Office Action dated April 27, 2007).

CONCLUSION

The claims, as amended, are allowable for the reasons given above. However, if the Examiner feels that there are any issues that could be addressed in a phone discussion, the Examiner is welcome to contact signing attorney, Angela Coxé, at 908-898-4635 to discuss this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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